

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated August 13, 2004 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

As indicated above, claims 1, 7, 13, and 16 have been amended to make explicit what is implicit in the claims. The amendment does not narrow the literal scope of the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: November 4, 2004

By: 

Ellen Marie Ermas

Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620